THE CASTLE
PART 0NE

by

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YOU CAN FIND US ANYWHERE

AT CLOPPA CASTLE

WHERE YOUR FRIENDLY ENEMY

AT CLOPPA CASTLE

WHERE LIVING IN HARMONY

AT CLOPPA CASTLE

AT CLOPPA CASTLE

As the sun rises over the gas works for another day of BALON EY SANDWICHES in SOLIHULL, STRINGFELLOW SHAW bounds down stairs and greets his father straightening his tie in the hall mirror .
STRINGFELLOW SHAW GOTTA GET TO SCHOOL DAD .
CHIRS SHAW BE READY ON SUNDAY
He walks passed past china ducks on the woodchip wallpapered walls and down the garden path ,tulips in front garden shutting gate behind him to traverse the maze of semi-detached houses to the High Street .As he gets to the bridge he sees James Granger walking his dog Muttley .
STRINGFELLOW SHAW Would you like me to phone RUFFUS and tell him to come round .
JAMES GRAINGER S eeing as me mam's going to see aunty Aspinal and I don't want
MUTTLEY left on his own ,do that then .
STRINGFELLOW SHAW Can you come and look after Mutley while we're at school
RUFFUS Right you are me old cock Sparrow, and then it's back over to Cranst a n Villa's to fix SID MOTRUMS boiler for the whole residence committee .
GRAINGER Graham says his Dad will fix the boiler if i get that spanner set from TEMPU, So, umm, we'll tag along and see NEWTOWN Amateur Dramatics Society and the Arts and Crafts department.
After school , Jeremy waits for James and STRINGFELLOW SHAW and they walk into town over STONEY BRIDGE to catch mothers and toddlers feeding ducks swimming underneath with chicken feed .
STRINGFELLOW SHAW Magnesium oxide can be turned into an acid strong enough to melt plastic, MR CHESTERFIELD showed us in science class this afternoon.
JAMES GRAINGER Y es very stimulating .

They traverse the maze of semi-detached houses to town center , and join a crow d at the entrance to the ARNDALE SHOPPING PLAZA assembled around a kiosk in front of a BRYLCREEM salesman in a red and white hat and patchwork costume serving hot dogs .

CAMERA CREW ARE FILMING A NEWS ITEM DOCUMENTARY SPONSORED BY W-D40 .

KATIE SHAW I'm at a hot dog stand and and I have with me PRESIDENT MACREA and his wife MARLAINER ..
DUNCAN

MACREA Thank you Katie , Yes folks this is our first hot dog stand in England and I'm hoping that it might capture the fun and excitement of stockholm
. MARLAINER And buying our dogs you to can be part of the space race folks DUNCAN MACREA That's right Katie, so thank you for your hard work at my chemical reprocessing plants around the world
KATIE SHAW MR and MRS MACREA shall come and visi t all of you . MACREA A fter I've shown my niece around the old ancestral home.

KATIE SHAW A nd now it's back to the studio after these ADVERTS.

MACREA and MARLAINER join STRINGFELLOW SHAW and JAMES GRAINGER by the front of shopping CENTER.

MARLAINER Y ou always know when he is being evasive when he starts speaking highlander and threatening to play hopscotch .
DUNCAN MACREA She's a right she devil when she's angry lads but makes up for it in CAMEO appearances with the NEWTOWN AMATURE DRAMATICS SOCIETY you know what i mean lads
. STRINGFELLO
SHAW ABSOLUTELY DUNCA
MACREA Well now lads, as your friends with ANN, how about a trip to Loch Lomond , and a week at my Castle
. JERAMY Does it still have dungeons. DUNCAN MACREA Eye, it would ne be a fort wit out them now would it lad STRINGFELLOW SHAW I'll say yes for me , and my friends then. How many can I bring? DUNCAN MACREA Bring whoever you want, there's always room somewhere on estate, even if I have to take the spikes out of the iron maiden. You arrange everything , and we shall say at the end of this month. Just let Ann know about numbers and final arrangements.

With that MACREA escorts MARLAINER to a waiting MERCEDES and they drive out of town.

SPARKY W here to next DUNCAN
. DUNCAN MACREA

It’s off to Birmingham to check on production of nitrous oxide.
SPARKY I do that when I go banger racing Boss , and I’ve never blown an engine . DUNCAN MACREA That may be true lad, but Marlainer is about to aren’t you dear.

M ARLAINER reaches a slender hand over to DUNCAN'S lap , as car speeds out of town.

Back at the ARNDALE CENTRE Stringfellow is preparing for the evening. STRINGFELLOW SHAW JERAMY, can you get on the blower to our boy’s and ask them to meet us at the lair in thirty minutes .

He turns to Ann who has just come walked through a revolving door with a can of coke.

STRINGFELLOW SHAW I didn’t realize you were related to him Ann, welcome to the TRAFALGAR GANG.

He takes hold of Llora denham’s hand and start the journey out towards NEWTOWN WOODS .

J AMES GRAINGER These Jupiter shuttle hotdogs are tasty aren't they.

ANN FITZGERALD `N ot bad J ames, makes me proud to be part of the family.

They take a left into the woods and traverse a pathway through tall trees where t he two david’s are waiting for them as they reach a WW2 bomb crater .

They run down the street slides of the bomb crater where all the Trafalgar Ganga.Waiting on oil barrels Folding recliners, sun loungers, chairs. and tree stumps.

GRAHAM Chalk it up our lead has just arrived.

STRINGFELLOW SHAW For those of us went with us

earlier, we have had an invitation to Tamagochi castle in lock Lomond in three weeks, for a holiday ,and I want to take as many as I can get.

ANN That's right guy's, me uncle is an e c centric millionaire and has a castle in Scotland .

David GARDNER you can count us in, I've got nothing planed except to beat Felixtow fantoms at football tomorrow.

STRINGFELLOW SHAW SHAW Oh year, I was just getting to that, keep yourself hydrated tonight boys we want to give the pub league a game to remember.

They all agree to take James's dad up on his offer as Ruffus and Roy enter the lair with swigging beer's, and sit

JAMES GRAINGER Alright then see you then, the rest of you coming ?

LORA DENHAM Hold your horses cowboy, this meeting isn't over yet

MICHAEL SULLIVAN That's true, what about global warming and halapeacha, , impotence, and male pattern balding then

DAVID GARDNER That's right, it ain't over till we got the grail back

STRINGFELLOW SHAW So this is it JERAMY, a bomb crater from where our gang gets its executive relief.

Michael Sullivan has tuned up with Tim curry , James GRANGER,followed with David Manning , David Gardner representing the Liberal Democrats.

STRINGFELLOW SHAW JERAMY , you are welcome to join us an be a full member of the Trafalgar gang. There are to be football matches ,AND CONVERSATION in our hide out. We are to start training next week, plus any other activity that we can think of.

STANLEY RATCHET What do you think.

JERAMY As you are m y only friends i'll think myself lucky .

JAMES GRANGER

That's quit true Jeramy

JERAMY FITZOLIVER So My older brother is in COAL HILL school and I was wondering if you would like to get a cricket team together to play them. What do you guy's think of that.

DAVID MANNING Could be a winner mate but if we lose you shall have to put a bucket on your head for the rest of the day.

MICHAEL SULLIVAN That's right JERAMY, agree to that and you got yourself a cricket team.

STRINGFELLOW SHAW If there is no further business to discuss I have to get home and get my ticket for next week.

JAMES GRAINGER Why what are you doing.

STRINGFELLOW Kicking a football around in the morning and then travelling to an interview with a BLOODY NICE CHAP over in Bath to help me go up in the world .

MICHAEL SULLIVAN B est of luck STRINGFELLOW , but try to find a solution for the Ozone depletion, Male pattern baldness , and narrowing the gap between rich and poor , before the international community descends on GREENWICH in 2012.

DAVID MANNING And try to get hold of CALEB WEST before you go galavanting off to Scotland .

JUNE DIARY OF STRINGFELLOW SHAW

We have finally made it to EDINBURGH , and have been picked up by a minibus to take us to the Castle. As the bus drives into the valley we can see the mountain on our right casting long shadows along a meandering road. . We drive towards a castle on the South side of LOCK NESS and over draw bridge into a courtyard.

It's Midday and we have been driving through the highlands for several hours.And as we get out of the bus we are greeted by two mature people. The grounds man, Basil, and a mature lady who says she is the cook and housekeeper named Margret.

BASIL I'm so happy to see you all, come on in. MACREA LL' be back this evening So when you' ve have unpacked I'll give you the full Scottish tour of the castle including the dungeons . This is Margret the housekeeper, who stands ready to assist any of you,

so follow her to your bedroom suits.

MARGARET I prepared a cold collation in the dining room.And some of my plum pudding, the recipe of which was given by my mother on her deathbed and is a stalwart favorite of the MACREA clan

They follow Basil and Margeret through the main door and over the black and white tiled entrance hall to the main staircase. The staircas e forks left and right where a large window floods the reception area with light through leaded arches underneath which stands a suit of armor , from where the stairs branch either side to the next landing .

James can't resist leaning against the armor and getting Ann to take a photo . He leans against the suit of armor and puts his cap at a rakish .

JAMES GRAINGER T hat's one for the album lads, hey BASIL have you got any weapons , cos I've always wanted to have a fight in full armor .

MARGRET You could get the chance, although there aren't any horses for jousting.

Lora falls into Stringfellow's arms saying [there won't be a noble night to defend maid Marion's honor in a royal joust this time then.]

STRINGFELLOW I trust my friends that it doesn't need defending, Lora

LORA DENHAM It doesn't darling, but it's the thought that counts.

The first floor is a comfortable lounge area with a LOUISE ESCARGOTTE SOFA against an oak bannister opposite a large wall mounted LED TV . They are led past the dumb waiter built into a support pillar past the lounge and the library to the eat wing, then down a n oak panelled corridor to there rooms. All of which are suitably furnished in an opulent style with tasteful prints of the lock.

BASIL We're meeting in the lounge in half an hour to start your tour of McCrea castle .

MARGRET And some of me plum pudding .

STRINGFELLOW Super Margaret

The gang are assigned there rooms and then assemble on the first floor landing where BASIL is waiting for them.

BASIL Rooms to your satisfaction then boy's and girls, this tour should give you a feel for our castle, and you can treat the place as your own. After the buffette in the oak panelled dinning room they walk to the entrance hall and then to the drape curtains leading to a stone staircase and descending down to the basement cavern with a low ceiling .

BASIL T he third laird of the manor is said to walk the battlements, though I have never seen him .

There are stocks and chains and a rack and even an iron maiden at the back. Next to the rack is a tray of pokers on a stand next to a fireplace built into a supporting wall .

STRINGFELLOW SHAW QUEENS PARK RANGERS DAVID GARDNER You better give me that £10 lent you in Felixstowe or this is going where the sun don't shine baby .

TIM CURRY It's on you David honest .

ELSEWHERE , PRESIDENT MACREA parks his car and escorts MARlAINER through revolving doors of a 5-star restaurant . They walk into the lobby and go up to the reservations desk .

DUNCAN MACREA Can you point us to the restaurant we are expected.

A spotty young man with acne says [it's over there MACREA, you blind or something its down that long corridor over to your right]

MARLAINER DETRICH Thank you Darling , and whispers I'll be back for him in CROATION.

They follow a waiter to an alcove table with red check table cloth , blue and pink napkins and a black candle in a blue candleholder where MS PLUMPTON, is waiting .

DUNCAN MACREA Hi there Ms Plumpton let's have a butchers at this amazing rag you write for then

MS PLUMPTON hands the magazine over the red check tablecloth .with black candles in blue candleholders as MACREA and

MARLAINER sit down .

MACREA I must admit is very nice bit of journalism MRS PLUMPTON, so I'm prepared to give you an exclusive.

MS PLUMPTON BLOODY MARVELOUS .

DUNCAN MACREA So I guess you get to see many highflying executives on your travels MS PLUMPTON.

MS PLUMPTON. That's right , and I put it all on the expense account, now let me know about your DE GUNGO EXPERIMENT.

DUNCAN MACREA Well my dear, it's a very long story and involved a project to get out of our SOLAR SYSTEM and passed what we call the JOVIAN SYSTEM.

MARLAINER DETRICH THAT'S the area from the asteroid system after mars and on through to JUPITER.

MS PLUMPTON. Oh yes the VULCAN FIELD between mars and Jupiter, I've herd of that.

MACREA Thats between MERCURY and VENUS .

MARLAINER It is also my home town, 20 miles from Zagreb in CROATIA.

MS PLUMPTON. I STAND CORRECTED .

DUNCAN MACREA Now I've met you and I'm so impressed with this magazine, am willing to show you this experiment back at the castle.

He has a swig if his PINOCOLADA with double vodka

MS PLUMPTON So we going to you place tonight then, I'll take my car and follow you then.

DUNCAN MACREA Right but I'd like to pick your brains about another idea concerning a new product that my factory in HAILSHAM is manufacturing.

He takes a bottle of liquid out of his jacket pocket and passes it over the red and white table with blue and pink napkins.

DUNCAN MACREA If you want me to let you have an article and see my experiment then I expect free advertising space for this new product.

#the label on the bottle reads **MYSTIC FOLICAL REGAIN SOLUTION**

DUNCAN MACREA And I'M RECRUITING SALESMAN TO Sell it in pub's and clubs in north of ENGLAND.

Ms PLUMPTON Alright I'll phone my editor and get clearance for a double action CENTERFOLD in the next issue of science weekly.

Marlainer DETRICK How's your chick pea Dali MS PLUMPTON

ms PLUMPTON It's on the mild side for my liking , but this PINOCOLADA is so refreshing I'll forgive the chef this time.

MARLAINER DETRICH Our zucchini lasagnes' are on the herbidacious side darling aren't they.

DUNCAN MACREA a touch sardonic but not cynical, oh you just must try some of this GORGONZOLA CHEESE, IT'S ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS. Now MS Plumpton I've got this design that I would like you to run through your people.

He takes a blue napkin from a spare wine glass and places it on the red and white tablecloth and starts to draw a mother pulling along a baby buggy with one handle, with clear plastic wheels full of beads at the back.

SIMON A lright then lets get out of here and you can follow me out of town to the LOCH. Then I'll show you my two test subjects FANCYPANTS AND SCARECROW.

MS PLUMPTON PHANCYPANTS AND SCARECROW.

Ms Plumpton gets into her yellow PORCHE and puts it into first gear drive , while waiting for our bMW to pull out. From there they drive through the Valley then over the moat and into the sandstone court yard, walk over the cobbled floor and pull a hanging basket aside to reveal an INTERCOM .MACREA dials for BASIL.

BASIL E verything is fine so far and I've managed to

keep them away from the Green door , as you requested.

When the McCrea's enter there entrance hall they cross the black and white tiled floor and enter the gymnasium.

DUNCAN MACREA Alright then How are you Ann, introduce me to the Gang.

STRINGFELLOW SHAW We have had a ball so far, you should open for the general public you'd clean up.

DUNCAN MACREA E y and the third laird of the manor would turn in his grave

MICHAEL SULLIVAN GET AWAY

DUNCAN MACREA I'd loose the lot including PANORAMA CHEMICALS and the right to where designer SUNGLASSES .

He takes Marlainer by the hand and leads here to the door then presses the intercom button by the side .

MACREA P ut the coffee on Basil .

JOURNAL OF STRINGFELLOW SHAW

When we've unpacked and settled in I convince the others to come exploring the east wing of the castle with me We make our way down the main stairwell past a coat of arms with banisters forking left and right into the black and white tiled entrance hall then follow the oak panell ing under the stairs, and pull aside hanging drapes to reveal a sandstone flight of to the Dungeons .

We walk over the cobbled floor past pockers ,hot irons and stretching rack, and my attention is drawn to an iron maiden with sharp spikes pocking out of the door . Next to the iron maiden is a green door .

MICHAEL SULLIVAN It does not lead out near the mote, so it remains a mystery .

There is a numerical keypad on the door and after a while I find a memo pad fixed to the iron maiden standing in the corner with large spikes pocking out of it. We crowd around the steel door f rom which there is a vibration as you touch it. When James enters the code the door slides open to reveal an elevator ,and we crowd in .

The lift starts to descend for several minutes and then opens out into a large concrete cavern .

We walk out into a cavern with stalagmites and stalactites with large stone ROMAN columns supporting a vaulted concave ceiling with a reinforced plexiglass skylights showing the aquamarine glow of the base of Lake.

Between four ROMAN columns there are occupied hospital beds surrounded by monitoring equipment and machinery.

As we enter the cavern motion detectors set off A LAUD CLAXAN and the doors to the lift close blocking off our retreat back to our friends. A steal shutter comes down stopping our exit.

JAMES OH NO

STRINGFELLOW No one told me about this, James we are going to get caught in a PANARAMA CHEMICALS biggest secret.

JAMES GRAINGER W hen MACREA comes he is going to be reasonable isn't he. Besides, I want to see the monster swim by that high ceiling up there , it must be quit a way below the Lock.

STRINGFELLOW SHAW Let's have a look around until security gets here, but don't touch anything or they'll kick me out of the foundation.

JAMES Yeah and I bet nobody is allowed to retire once there in so that would be serious.

They go over to the two prone figures on plastic tables where there's a hard plastic cover over them. They have simple cotton clothing on and covered with monitoring equipment from a mouth mask to pulse meter pads on all the major arteries .

STRINGFELLOW SHAW I didn't know anything about this one JAMES they've kept it TOP SECRET.

JAMES GRAINGER Nothing was reported in our magazine since I've come into the firm.

When the alarm has gone on for ten minutes a door to the right opens and Basil and Margaret go over to the two bodies lying on the observation beds, and start to check monitoring equipment next to both subjects. They are so intent on the bodies, that they pay James

and STRINGFELLOW no attention until satisfied that the equipment has not been tampered with.

BASIL Tell me you have not touched the equipment Stringfellow, this is a specialised experiment for Druthgo Industries.

MARGERETE S ubjects have not changed there vital signs. They are still in total suspension.

Then the lift doors open and DUNCAN MACREA comes out with FIONA PLUMPTON .

MACREA So you got here earlier than I expected Stringfellow. My housekeeper is monitoring vital experiment that I was to show you all tomorrow.

STRINGFELLOW SHAW Sorry Duncan , my curiosity got the better of me and here we are. I didn't mean to cause any trouble.

DUNCAN MACREA This is a secret experiment in suspended animation, as part of project ICARUS. Your space DJ could go through this on his way to JUPITER next year.

JAMES GRAINGER Are you going to swear us to secrecy now, .

FIONA PLUMPTON If you give me an exclusive you can see the article before publication as long as I get the pullitzer prize when Andrew sterling makes its over the red eye of Jupiter .

DUNCAN MACREA I'll tell you more tomorrow but you must leave with me now before I have to put the heating on and ruin months of research.

FIONA PLUMPTON The others are back in lounge waiting for you stringfellow, you can tell them what you want to .

BASIL I bid you goodnight boys and girls.

W e enter the elevator again for the trip back up to the Dungeons Then take the sandstone steps to the black and white tile main entrance and up the wide main staircase and round the bannisters adjacent to the library to the east wing of the Castle.

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